Dhamra Port in Orissa

2335. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for the Dhamra Port in Orissa;

(b) the details of the approval given to the proposed port;

(c) whether it is a fact that objection has come up on this approval;

(d) if so, the details of such objection; and

(e) the status of the proposal for completion of the Dhamra Port in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Dhamra Port in Orissa is not a major port. As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for upgradation/development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Governments concerned, which also have administrative control on such ports.

Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society

2336. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were allegations of large-scale embezzlement of funds in Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds embezzled/defrauded by its office bearers/em ployees;

(c) whether any investigation was ordered into this; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per report received, a case of fraud of Rs. 50.00 lakhs was committed on Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society.

(c) Yes, Sir.